Closure of industrial units polluting rivers

1900. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided to close down industrial units which discharge effluents into rivers directly unless they took rectification measures within three months; and

(b) if so, the names of such units State and Territory-wise with tentative date of recetification measures to be undertaken within three months?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Pollution Control Board has issued direction on 14.7.97 under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to all State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees to take action against defaulting industries for ensuring effluent treatment within 3 months, failing which closure notices shall be issued against the defaulting industries. Central Pollution Control Board will inform state-wise details of identified grossly polluting industries to the Ministry.

Work Measurement Study of CPCB

1901. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3708 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 1997 and state:

(a) whether Government have since received the report of Institute of Applied Manpower Research relating to Work Measurement Study of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and if so, the salient features thereof; and

(b) whether the proposals for creation of posts received from CPCB have since been cleared and if not, what are the reasons therefor and by when these are proposed to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

The salient features of the report are, inter alia:

— Changes in the organisational structure.

— Rearranging available manpower.

— Review existing promotional avenues vis-a-vis required modifications.

— Assess infrastructural requirements keeping in view the future activities.

— Creation of additional posts for enhancing scientific and technical capability as also strengthening of legal and administrative infrastructure.

(b) The proposals for creation of posts would be considered by the Government after the receipt of the recommendations of the CPCB on the Report.

Illegal Rhino Horn Trade

1902. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the new emerging centres in Siliguri, Dimapur and Guwahati for the international Syndicate engaged in the clandestine trade in rhino horns; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to identify the links to rhino poaching, to strengthen the rhino conservation measures and to end the illegal rhino horn trade?